

REMARKS

Applicants have replaced the abstract, amended the drawings, amended the specification, cancelled claims 1-30, and inserted new claims 31-38.

Amendments To The Abstract

Applicants have replaced the abstract to more closely reflect the claimed subject matter of the present application. No new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants have amended Figs. 22 and 36C of the drawings to correct minor clerical errors. No new matter has been added. The amendments to the drawings are set forth on page 3 of this Preliminary Amendment and shown in red in the attached marked-up versions of Figs. 22 and 36C. In anticipation of the amendments being entered, applicants have enclosed formal drawings for Figs. 22 and 36C that incorporate the amendments.

Amendments To The Specification

Applicants have amended the specification of the present application to incorporate amendments made in U.S.

Patent Application No. 10/346,266, filed January 13, 2003, and in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/657,659, filed on November 29, 2001, from which the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120. No new matter has been added.


New Claims 31-38

New claims 31-38 are presented for the Examiner's consideration. No new matter has been added and the claims are fully supported and justified by the application as originally filed. Support for these claims can be found in the originally-filed application at, for example, page 3, line 9, to page 4, line 4, page 42, line 13, to page 43, line 3 and in Fig. 22. These claims were previously filed and subject to a restriction requirement in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/346,266, filed January 15, 2003, from which the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application, including new claims 31-38, is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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